

## Salt Spring Energy Update-- December, 2006

<http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org>

The stormy weather of these last few weeks provides a taste of what lies ahead as climate change emerges as the critical issue of our time.

This newsletter is produced for the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force for interested people on Salt Spring and beyond. Pass it on and let us know if there are others who would like to be added to our email list. Email [marionpape@telus.net](mailto:marionpape@telus.net) to add names or if you wish to be removed.

### **Salt Springers visit Dynasty NEV plant**

In November, Dorothy Cutting took her hybrid car and friends to visit the Neighbourhood Electric Vehicle (NEV) plant in Delta. We wanted to find out more about the NEV, and what its potential might be on Salt Spring. By definition, a NEV can have a top speed no greater than 40 km/h and may only be operated on roads with speed limits of 60 km/h or less. The Dynasty cars are hand-built on a small production line and are VERY cute. The company makes three models: a sedan, a utility pick-up, and a sport. We test drove the sedan and found it much like a souped-up golf cart. The current range is 50 km, which is a drawback. We thought the NEV would be great for cruising around the Ganges area, but would not be appropriate for people living far from the village, or up a mountain. The NEV is not inexpensive at \$19,000, but the 'fuel' costs are negligible and climate friendly, especially if a solar panel is used for charging. See Dynasty Electric Car Corp. <http://www.itiselectric.com>

### **Energy, Climate Change, and the Salt Spring OCP**

The Energy Strategy Task Force is preparing recommendations as part of the Official Community Plan (OCP) review. Interestingly, many of the current OCP objectives match the Community Energy Strategy objectives, for example the objective to cluster new development in the existing villages. But over the last eight years the vision articulated in our OCP has generally not manifested on the ground. The challenge now is to introduce energy and climate change policy objectives along with the regulatory tools that will result in real change. We cannot afford to waste another eight years. For more info email [elizwhite@saltspring.com](mailto:elizwhite@saltspring.com)

### **Fed up with power outages?**

Seasonal creeks can provide power throughout the winter months. For an investment of a few thousand dollars (much less than the cost of a solar electric system) a small microhydro system can provide enough power to run lighting, computers, and small appliances. To find out if your creek, or ditch, has enough power to meet your needs see <http://www.EnergyAlternatives.ca>

## **ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH**

**Give your house an energy retrofit.** Check out our website at <http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org> to find out more about home energy retrofit rebates that are available on Salt Spring; we are a Community Action on Energy Efficiency (CAEE) pilot community. Give your house an energy makeover before March 31, 2007 to benefit from the current grants. Also see <http://www.citygreen.ca> or call 1-866-381-9995.

**Spend the holidays at home** and avoid vacation flights. Air travel is the fastest rising source of GHG emissions and is currently responsible for about 6% of global warming effects (2-2.5% of global carbon emissions x 2.7 for water vapor effects). George Monbiot (Heat--how to stop the planet from burning) tells us there is no ethical air travel. If you must fly to visit loved ones, visit longer and much less frequently. Carbon offset plans, where you donate the 'value' of your GHG emissions to tree planting or renewable energy projects, are a good idea but provide delayed benefits. The cuts need to be made now. The only thing worse than flying to a vacation destination is taking a cruise to get there. Cruise ship emissions are up to 6 times higher than planes on a per passenger mile basis.

**Please, no coal-fired generating stations.** In July, the BC government announced two 30-year contracts for coal-fired power plants: a 56-megawatt plant near Princeton and a 184-megawatt plant at Tumbler Ridge. Now, a third coal-fired power plant is being considered for BC. Fortune Minerals has ordered a prefeasibility economic assessment, to be completed by the end of 2006, regarding a potential 300 MW coal-fired power plant at their proposed Mt Klappan open pit anthracite coal mine. A conventional 300 MW coal-fired power plant produces approximately 2.5 million tonnes of GHGs a year. In 2004 British Columbia's annual GHG emissions were 15.9 t per capita. The proposed addition of three coal fired generating stations could increase BC's GHG emissions by up to 6.3% (over 2004 numbers), raising the annual per capita emissions to 16.9 t. BC has such huge potential for clean renewable energy, there is no reason to burn coal.

To register your comments on the coal-fired generating stations, contact Hon. Gordon Campbell, Premier <[premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)> Room 156, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 Phone: 250 387-1715; Fax: 250 387-0087

***Best wishes to all for the New Year***

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